## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention provides processes for synthesizing compounds of formula I:

$$R_4$$
 $R_3$ 
 $R_2$ 
 $R_1$ 

5

wherein R is H or alkyl;  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  are H, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, fluorinated alkyl, -CN, alkyl sulfonamide, alkyl amide, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, fluorinated alkoxy, acyl, or aroyl;  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are H, alkyl or cycloalkyl; the dashed line indicates an optional double bond; as well as intermediates and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

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